



U. S. Grant and the Colored People.

HIS WISE, JUST, PRACTICAL, AND EFFECTIVE FRIENDSHIP THOROUGHLY VINDICATED BY INCONTESTABLE FACTS IN HIS RECORD FROM 1862 TO 1872.

WORDS OF TRUTH AND SOBERNESS! HE WHO RUNS MAY READ AND UNDERSTAND!! BE NOT DECEIVED. ONLY TRUTH CAN ENDURE!!!

To the Colored People of the United States: []

There are many dissemblers and falsifers of the Greeley party in the South who are seeking the control of the colorel voters, by declaring to them that President Grant is not, and never has been, a faithful and sincere friend of my race. Indeed, Senator Sumner makes a charge of this kind, and while I would not for a moment imply that I have lost faith in the honor 1 Senator's sincerity and integrity, still I must declare that President Grant's course, from the time he drew the sword in defense of the old Union in the Valley of the Mississippi till he sheathed it at Appomattox, and thomse to this day in his reconstruction policy and his war upon the Ku-Klux, is without a deed or word to justify such an secusation.

a substantiation of my opinion-and I hink I may cay my race is a unit with me nthes opinion-I desire to submit to you, and to the country through you, the followng plain and truthful statement of the facts is the records prove them to be.

STATE OF PUBLIC OPINION.

And, first, let me recall the state of public pinion as regards the extent to which the clfare and rights of four millions of my uslaved people were involved during the rst year and a half of the war. I quote om a letter of Mr. Lincoln's, dated August 3.1562:

" My paramount object is to save the nion, and not either save or destroy avery."

Mr Lincoln, in his proclamation, warned

January following, proclaim emancipation in those States where the people shall be in rebellion against the United States. That glorious proclamation be accordingly issued; but Kentucky, Tennessee, and portions of Louisiana and Virginia were not included in

HE WAS ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

General Grant commanded the armies which were moving southward from Cario and operating in territory affected and unaffected by the proclamation. I find, by consultation with an ex-officer in that army. who knew all the orders issued, that General Grant was always up with, or in advance of, authority farnished from Washington in regard to the treatment of these of our color then slaves. Thus a large number of our people, through his orders, were furnished employment within his liner, or transportation to homes and places of comfort for themselves and families and education for their children in the North. And when he reached northern Mississippi, or the region where the people of our color were more nn. merous, I find that he issued, November 1d, 1862, before the Emancipation Proclamation and before authority was furnished-from Washington, but solely on his own couvietion of the military necessity and right, an order earing for our people.

Those of our people fleeing from slavery had been not inaptly designated contrabands of war by General Butler. Those of us who participated in or witnessed these scenes can recall with sufficient vividness the exodus from slavery to liberty through the Federal e rebels that he would, on the first day of | lines whenever the soldiers in blue appeared,

BEN DRIVEUS THE EVIL AND PROVIDES MEANS. 10 AVOID IT.

men the army of thousands of men, women. and children pouring through the camps: be we mired, to, the humane considerane which would not allow, even in those Is the hand fearful scenes, the starvation regnos, in regard to whom, as slaves, 'be they amen' had not yet fixed its policy. Selecting an officer for the purpose, in Spead Order No. 15, dated Headquarters 13th Army Corns, Department of the Tennossee, lagrange, Tennesice, November 11, 1862, he directed this officer to "take charge of the contrabands who came into the camp, organize them into suitable companies for work, are that they were properly cared for, and the to work. He ordered suitable gnare detailed for their protection, and the off . .. report to him in person." The All and dis with ample orders to the Com all way General and Quarternucter Concralall the lessing of rations, clothing for men, women, and children, and implements nein sory for use in their labor.

In General Orders No. 12, dated Headquarters 13th Army Corps, Department of the Tennessee, Oxford, Mississippi, Decemier 17, 1862, still half a month before the Emancipation Proclamation, he made the same officer General Superintendent of these affairs for the Department, with authority to designate assistants; and, in a word, inercasing his authority, specifying more fully the details of his duties, the kind of labor an which our people were to be employed, and enforcing their compensation. They were to fill every position occupied by the soldi r'save what depended upon his enlistment. Their wives and children were also to be cared for and given employment as for as possible.

JE ANTICIPATES THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

Indeed, looking over a report of the General Superintendent, which was printed in the winter of 1865, and favorably reviewed by the North American Review, I find that allor of the deficer to care for the color of the death of the death of the deficer to care for the find hel them, another for the regardless of color or nationality?

enforcement of justice in their behalf, another for their medical attendance, another cicerral Grant saw the demoralizing effect | for their education. All abandoned property was ordered used for them. In all these benefits I find white refugees shared

> Here was the full germ of the Preedman's Bureau apparent in the orders of General Grant before the Emancipation Proclamation, not as a theory, but as a practical solution of the relation of slaves in the South to the suppression of the rebellion. and in the interest of the welfare of all concerned.

How dr Lese facts comport with the accusations in question? We know General Grant dislikes everything dramatic, yet what a scene is this for the contemplation of the people of our color! Here, in the milist of the terrible scenes of war, still slave , so far as law and the action of Goverament is concerned, they are as the as possible protected in their families and lives. she tered and clothed, their sick furnished medicines, and the well furnished with employment that they might learn self-support.

After slavery was declared abolished as spring approached, the Government determined to employ the freedmen as soldiers, and Adjutant General Thomas was sent out with proper authority to organize regiments in the Mississippi Valley. Already one company of colored troops had been organized, furnished with arms, and put en duty.

General Grant was at Milliken's Bend, Louisiana. His General Orders No. 25; say:

"Commissaries will issue supplies, and quartermasters will furnish stores on the same requisitions and returns as are required from the troops. It is expected that all commanders will especially exert themselves in carrying out the policy of the Administration, not only in organizing colored regiments and rendering them efficient, but also in removing prejudice against them." Was this opposing the organization of troops?

General Grant, in his letter to General Lee, October 19, 1864, although declining to discuss the slavery question, declare-, " ! shall always regret the necessity of retail

EE-WAS ALWAYS READY TO HEAR CONCERNING THE PREEDMEN.

Al learn from an ex-officer, who was thoroughly cognizant of the facts, that inthe midst of the fearful labor around Vicksburg, General Grant always found time to attend to the calls necessary to make upon nim in regard to the colored people or colored troops, that he gave every aid to the development of their industry and the means of their improvement. He favored no Stopian schemes, and sought practical solution of every difficulty in the way of the welfare of our people. That when before Vicksburg, he, and his associates in the chief command of the troops, who, night and day, were pressing the siege, found time to listen to an extended report of the officer he had placed in charge of our people in the November previous. This report he afterwards forwarded to President Lincoln with a private letter, dated June 11, 1863, in which he says:

† "Finding that negroes were coming into our lines in great numbers and receiving kind or abusive treatment according to the peculiar views of the troops they first came in contact with, and not being able to give that personal attention to their care and use the matter demanded, I determined to appoint a General Superintendent over the whole subject, and give him such assistants as the duties assigned him might require. I have given him such aid as was in my power, by the publication, from time to time, of such orders as seemed to be required, and generally at the suggestion of the Superinwendent.

He speaks of the results up to that date as of great service to the blacks in having them provided for, when otherwise they would have been neglected, and to the Government in finding employment for the ne-

receiving. And, in closing, directs so will attention to that portion of the renear which would suggest orders regulating the tal ject which a Department Commander - not competent to issue.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS SATISFIED WITH HIM. The officer who delivered this letter and report to Mr. Lincoln, states that Mr. Lincaln received them with the greatest satisaction, asking many questions about General Grant's views upon the whole subject of the treatment of the colored people, and on thus learning something in detail of the saccess of General Grant's plans and the usefulness, in his judgment, of colored soldiers, he repeated the expressions of his gratification that a General who was winning such military successes over the rebels was able, from a military standpoint, to give him so many practical illustrations of the benefits of the emancipation policy.

HE ORGANIZES FREE LABOR WHERE HE GOES,

I find in a printed copy of a letter to Mr. Levi Coffin, then in England, written by the General Superintendent, and dated at Vicks. burg only a year after its fall, a statement that "this supervision, embracing the territory within the lines of our army, from Cairo down the Mississippi to Red river, together with the State of Arkansas: numbered in its care during the past year 113,650 freedmen. These are now disposed as follows: in military service as soldiers, laundreses, cooks, officers' servants, and laborers in the various staff departments, 41.150; la cities, on plantations, and in freedmen's villages and cared for, 72,500. Of these, 62,800 are entirely self-supporting-the same at any industrial class anywhere—as planters, mechanies, barbers, hackmen, draymen, &c., gro whereby he might earn what he was conducting enterprises on their own respon-

concil—afterwards General—Samuel Thomas, and Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Eurean, in one of his reports, anys: "Unprincipled men took advantage of the negro's ignorance to impose upon their condicace, and often robbed them of all they had. Only a tew days since, a negro was telling mo, that eighteen menths ago he had ten hales of cotton of his own on his master's plantation; that he was Major General's boots one ony, told him the story of his wrongs and sufferings, ending with the mention of this cotton. The General sat down and wrote him an order for it, and ordered that all efficers should assist him in getting it to trarket.

^{*}He relates that, one evening in the midst of the siege of Vick Burg. Cen. Grant was sitting by the trunk of a great tree near his tent talking to the Superintendent of Freedman of tacir affeirs, telling him at a talk of a great bend in the Mistiscippi 25 miles below the town, indicating how easily it could be protested, saying a considerable portion of the land then descried was owned by Jeff Davis and his brother Joe, who explain titles are the related by Jeff Supering and his brother Joe, who explain the child brother Joe, who explain the production of the first great and the child brother Joe, who explain the production of the supering and his brother Joe, who explain the production of the first great his brother Joe, which have a midst be the trunken of the production of the first great his brother Joe and his considerable portion of the land then described was owned by Jeff. Davie and his deflact doe, who is point those was often visited as a model by foreigners, turgested that this bond should be one upical by the tree of in, and he made a "negro paralise." So it was. Soon it was divided into small fit and for the irrelitivation, houses built, schools opened, the administration of order left chiefly to the colored people, and the whole proper divisions and successfully carries on the Davis former slave and forement one of these free cultivators of the head, owns and successfully carries on the Davis plantation, having purchased it from his former master.

**Colored—afterwards General—Samuel Thomas, and Assistant Commissioner of the Freedment's Bureau, in one find reports, when the property are the property of the property are the property of the property of the property.

sibility, or as hired laborers. The remaining 10,200 receive subsistence from the Gov-Thirty thousand of them are membera of families whose heads are carrying on plantations, and have under cultivation 4,000 acres of cotton, and are to pay the Government for their subsistence from the first income of crop. The other 7,200 include the panpers (those over and under the self-supporting age, the crippled and sick in hospital) of the 113,650, and those engaged in rate care, and, instead of being unproductive, have now under cultivation 500 acres of corn. 790 acres of vegetables, and 1.500 acres of cotton, besides the work done at wood-chopping, &c.

There are reported in the aggregate something over 100,000 acres of cotton under cultivation. Of these about 7,000 acres are leased and cultivated by blacks. Some of these are managing as high as 300 or 400 acres. It is impossible to give, at the present date, any definite statement of many of the forms of industry. Fifty-nine thousand cords of wood are reported to me by Col. Thomas, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen, as cut within the lines of 110 miles on the river banks above and below this place. It would be only a guess-to state the entire amount cut by the people under this supervision; it must be enormous. The people have been paid from 50 cents to \$2.50 per cord for cutting. This wood has been essential to the commercial and military operations on the river.

"Of the 113,650 blacks here mentioned, 13,620 have been under instruction in letters; about 1,000 have learned to read quite fairely, and about 2,000 to write." So our people were helped by General Grant's policy through this terrible transition.

ME SEES NO PEACE WHILE THERE IS SLAVERY.

August 16, 1864, General Grant wrote IIr.
Washburne the celebrated letter so widely quoted, in which he affirms that the Confederate leaders had robbed the cradle and the grave to carry on the war, urging that our friends in the North could have no hope for peace from separation; and among the special reasons in reply to "peace on any terms," he affirms that the South would de-

mand the restoration of their slaves already free: they would demand indemnity for losses sustained; they would demand a treaty which would make the North slave hunters for the South; they would demand pay for every slave that escaped to the North.

In his last and noted order to the great army, dated June 2, 1805, General Grant distinctly recognizes the good results they had accomplished; affirms that they had "overthrown all armed opposition to the enforcement of the laws, and the proclamation forever abolishing slavery—the cause and pretext of the rebellion."

May we not justly say, will it not be the unquestioned sentiment of history that the liberty which Mr. Lincoln declared with his pen General Grant made effectual with his sword—by his skill in leading the Union armies to final victory?

But I prefer that General Grant shall speak for himself, by here quoting from his private letter to Mr. Washburne, and published without the General's knowledge or permission, dated August 30, 1863, in which he said: "The people of the North need not quarrel over the institution of slavery. What Vice President Stephens acknowledges as the corner-stone of the Confederacy is already knocked out. Slavery is already dead, and cannot be resurrected. It would take a standing army to maintain slavery in the South, if we were to make peace to day guaranteeing to the South all their fermer constitutional privileges.

"I never was an Abolitionist—not even what could be called anti slavery—but I try to judge fairly and honestly, and because patent to my mind, early in the rebellion, that the North and South could never live in peace with each other except as one nation. As anxious as I am to see peace, and that without slavery, re-established, I would not therefore be willing to see any settlement until this question is forever settled."

In a letter written by Mr. Lincolnto General Grant, April 30, 1864, is this emphatic sentence: "I wish to express in this way my entire satisfaction with what you havedone up to this time."

HE HAS BEENSTRUE IN PRACE AS IN WAR.

But since he became President how faithfully has be carried out his pledges in which we are most directly interested?

In his inaugural, March 4, 1867, we find these wise words in regard to suffrage and the tifteenth amendment:

"The question of suffrage is one which is likely to agitate the public so long as a portion of the citizens of the nation are excluded from its privileges in any State. It seems to me very desirable that this question should be settled now, and I entertain the hope and express the desire that it may be by the ratification of the fifteenth article of amendment to the Constitution.

Indeed, his language often points to his clear apprehension of the fact that peace could only be fully restored by removing the causes of disturbance. In his message in regard to Mississippi and Virginia, April 7. 1869, while he urges the restoration of the States to their proper relations to the Government as speedily as possible, he clearly states that it must be conditioned that the people of those States shall "be willing to become peaceful and orderly communities, and to adopt and maintain such constitutions and laws as will effectually secure the civil and political rights of all persons within their borders.

RECOMMENDS THE INDUSTRY OF THE PREED-

True to all his instincts, all his declarations and acts in his first annual message, he has for our people as freedmen a kind word, and declares "the freedmen, under the protection they have received, are making rapid progress in learning, and no complaints are heard of lack of industry on their part where they receive fair remuneration for their labor; and among the reasons weich he finds for gratitude to the Giver of all good, is a country "with a population of forty millions of free people, all speaking one language; with facilities for every mortal to acquire an education; with institutions closing to none the avenues to fame or any blessing of fortune that may be coveted; with freedem of the pulpit, the press, and

to secure protection to the person and propcrty of the citizen of the United States in each and every portion of our common country wherever he may choose to move, without reference to original nationality, religion, color, or politics, demanding of him only obedience to the laws and proper respect for the rights of others."

THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT.

Though, as he said, it is unusual to notify the two Houses by message, of the promulgation of the ratification of an amendment to the Constitution, yet he sent one in re gard to the ratification of the fifteenth amendment, in which he said: "Institut tions like ours, in which all power is derived directly from the people, must depend mainly upon their intelligence, patriotism. and industry. I call the attention, therefore, of the newly-enfrauchised race to the importance of their striving in ever honorable manner to make themselves worthy of their new privilege. TO THE RACE MORE FAVORED HERETOFORE BY OUR LAWS I WOULD SAY, WITHHOLD NO LEGAL PRIVILEGE OF AD-VANCEMENT TO THE NEW CITIZEN. framers of our Constitution firmly believed that a republican government could not endure without intelligence and education generally diffused among the people." The "Father of his country," in his farewell address, used this language: "Promote, then, as a matter of primary importance. institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of the Government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened." In his first annual message to Congress the same views are forcibly presented, and are again urged in his eighth message.

I repeat that the adoption of the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution completes the greatest civil change, and constitutes the most important event that has occurred since the nation came into life. The change will be beneficial in proportion to the Leed that is given to the urgent recommendations of Washington. If these recommendations Again, herdeclares that the were important then, with a population of , second great object of the Government is that a few millions, how much more important now, with a population of forty millione, contrages of organizations, known as Ku and recognized in a regid ratio. Klux Klans, upon an imagent and safferin

1 add, therefore, call upon Congress to m'a. A Commons within their constitutional powers to promote and encourage popular and their their throughout the country; and their their people everywhere to see to it; the description of their people everywhere to see to it; their possess and exercise political that a possess and exercise political their shape their whedge which will make their shape the Government a blessing and not a page to

COLORED MEN APPOINTED TO OFFICE.

An inquiry into the appointments of colored men to office under General Grant gives results more satisfactory than I anticipated. No records, so far as I learn, appear to be kept of the color of the appointees.

I can only ascertain facts by my own personal knowledge and from the personal knowledge of others acquainted with the appointees. It is impossible for me to ax the exact number, but I find them in all departments of the civil service. Two have been appointed foreign Ministers, several Collectors of Customs, some Assessors of Internal Revenue, and so on down through all the verious grades of the service—as route agents, postmasters, clerks, messengers, &c., according to the intelligence and character of the applicants.

I should have been glad to have obtained the exact number of appointees of our color. In one Department at Washington I found 24% on I many more holding important posiwion; in its service in different parts of the country. In other Departments I ascertain corresponding gratifying facts as I pursued the inquiry, meeting some new man at every step, and left it satisfied, as I think any colorad man would be, that there has been a hearty disposition to disregard all past prejudices and treat us in the matter of appointments according to our merits. The apposintments to West Point, as overcoming the army prejudices, are well known, and too significant to be overlooked.

PROTECTION AGAINST THE KU-KLUX.

And what shall I say of his enforcement of the law for the preservation of life and property in the South, whereby the savage

Klux Klans, upon an innocent and safferin people have been so generally suppressed What a change has come? These outrages the burning of school houses and churches the whipping and shooting of teachers, the midnight murder of men and women with out cause by masked villains, were so con trary to the ideas of the country that the hardly seemed possible in a civilized land But by the quiet yet firm course of Gener. Grant in enforcing the law, thousands have openly acknowledged the erimes charged the organizations stand confessed to :! amazement of all good men North ar South, and peace has come to many place as never before. The scourging and slaug ter of our people have so far ceased.

History will not mistake the first and y humane part General Grant has performin this work. Have not all violence as injustice to us ceased, it is not because has failed to do his duty, but because of f prejudices and opposition of those who no claim to be the special friends of the eclor man. And should not the good work peace and good will go on till every Ame ican citizen is known in the law and treat the same without regard to his color, it w be by the fatal success of those who ass. General Grant, and would defeat his ele tion, and thus prevent the successful accoplishment of his benign purpose of pe petual union for the country and of assurliberty and protection to every pers in it.

Indeed, I closed the inquiry thorough satisfied, and believe that any man of a race would be, with the same facts before him, that with General Grant at the he of the Administration of the country we assured, in due time, not only of all a rights, but of our privileges.

Let me now come to my own person relations with General Grant, as well as own personal knowledge of him: for I hat the hon're to know him well. Very mathat you have heard concerning him is that you have heard concerning him is the hon're had been severely criticised, it would be a supplied to have heard concerning him is the hon're had been severely criticised, it would be had a supplied to have heard concerning him is the hon're had been severely criticised, it would be had a supplied to have heard concerning him is the hon're had been severely criticised, it would be had a supplied to have heard concerning him is the hon're had been severely criticised, it would be had a supplied to have heard concerning him is the hon're had been severely criticised.

then, is my testimony concerning him. I may state that during the war he showed During my varied public 'career of more' than thirty years, I have, perhaps, more than any other colored man of my times, been brought into direct contact with our nation's great men, and taking my whole experience into account. I affirm that after our maraired President, Abraham Lincoln, and Senator Charles Sumner, no man in high position has manifested in his intercourse with me upon all occasions and in all places amore entire freedom from vulgar prejudice of rice and color, than Ulysses S. Grant. I have called upon him often, (never, how ever, to solicit office for myself or for others,) and have always found him to be easily accessible, gentlemanly, and cordial. Like most of you when meeting with distinguished white persons, I was on the lookout when meeting with General Grant for some indication of the presence in his manners and words of the slavery-born aversion to my race. I found nothing of the kind in him. You have heard that General Grant is a man of few words, and the inference has been drawn by his enemies, that he is a man of few ideas. Never was an inference more unjust. It often requires more talent to be silent, than to speak. It is the merit of this man that he knows just when to speak, and when to be silent. I have heard him converse, and converse freely, and to those who have seen him only in his silent moods my statement will hardly be credited, that few men in public life, or otherwise, can state facts with greater clearness and fluency, than General Grant.

I have often been called upon to reconcile my exalted opinion of President Grant with the fact that I failed to be invited with the Commissioners of luquiry to Santo Domingo to dine with the President at the White House. Thave two answers to those who inquire of me on this point. First. The failure of the President to invite me could not have been because my personal presence on account of color would have been disagreeable to him, for he never withheld any social courtesy to General Tata, the Minister Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Hayti, a man of my

himself as free from Indian prejudice as negro prejudice, by retaining upon his staff General Eli Parker. It is, besides, impossible that color is the explanation of the omission to invite me, because the gentlemen whom he did invite had dined with me daily during ten weeks on an American slrip, under an American flag, and in presence of representatives of the leading presses of the United States, and this doubtless by the President's special direction. It is further obvious that color had nothing to do with the omission, because other gentlemen accompanying the expedition to Santo Domingo equally with myself, though white, failed to receive an invitation to dine at the White House. The only Commissioners provided for by the act of Congress, were Mesers, B. F. Wade. Andrew D. White, and S. G. Howe, with one Secretary, Mr. Allan A. Burton. Thosa gentlemen called in a body upon the President and were invited in an informal way to dine with him. I was not in company with the Commissioners when this call was made, and did not see the President until afterward. Had I lean in company with the Commissioners at the time of their visit. T have no question but that an infiletion would have been extended to me as freely as to any of the gentlemen of the Commission who were invited. My necend answer is that my devotion to General Grans rests upon high and broad public grounds. and not upon personal favor. I see in him the vigilant, firm, importial, and wish protector of my race from all the maligni. reactionary, social, and political elements that would whelm them in destruction. He is the rock-bound coast against the angry and gnawing waves of a storm-tossed ocean saying, thus far only shalt thou come.

Wherever clas there mer be room for doubt and uncertainty, there is nothing of the kind with Ulyeses S. Grant as our car' didate. In the midst of political changes L. is now as ever—unswerving and inflowed a Nominated regularly by the time-beneral Republican party, he is clothed with all the sublime triumphs of humanity which make own complexion; and in this connection Illits record. That party stands to-day free

from alloy, pure and simple. neither ambiguity in its platform nor incon- be overthrown? gruity in its candidates. U. S. Grant and Henry Wilson, the one from the West and the other from the East-the soldier and the Senator—are men in whom we can confide. No two names can better embody the preeious and priceless results of the suppression of rebellion and the abolition of slavery. We gan no more array ourselves against these candidates and this party than we can resume our chains or insult our mothers. We are allied to the Republican party by every honorable sentiment of the human soul. While affection and gratitude bind us to the party, the well known character of the Democratic party, and the long line of a steecedents of that party, repel us and make it impossible for us to east in our lots with To vote for Messrs. Greeley and Brown would justly invite to our heads the contempt and scorn of honest men. We should not only brand ourselves as political knaves but as political fools, meanly marching to occupy a position to which we are invited by the Democratic party, which party during the last forty years has existed almost exclusively to make sure our slavery and degradation as a race. The key-note of the whole Greeley movement was sounded by Mr. James R. Doolittle upon taking the chair of the convention that nominated Mr. Greeley. He announced as one of the objects of the movement the "overthrow of negro supremacy." Can any negro be so blind as not to see the meaning of this? Where has the negro been supreme in this country? Is the simple exercise of the elective franchise

There is for surely this is all we have exercised) to We leave the question with you.

> In view of the foregoing facts, the followling most excellent letter should be added:

> > EXECUTIVE MANSION. Washington, D. C., May 9, 1875.

GENTLEMEN: I am in receipt of your invitation extended to me to attend a mumeeting, to be held for the purpose of aiding in securing civil rights for the colored citizens of our country. I regret that a previous engagement will detain me at the Executive Mansion, and that I shall not be able to participate with you in person in your efforts to further the cause in which you are laboring. I beg to assure you, however, that I sympathize most cordially in any effort to secure for all our people, of whatever race, nativity, or color, the exercise of those rights to which every citizen should be cutitled.

I am, very respectfully, Ú. S. Grant.

Such is the record of the great chieftain whose sword cleft the hydra-head of treason, and by whose true heart and good right arm you gained the ballot, that glorious insignia of your citizenship. Such is the record of the wise statesman for whom you trusted your first ballot for President; for no other than him can you trust your second. Rally, then, to his support with that resistless spirit in which you fought for your liberties, with that deep sincerity in which you mourned the foul death of your liberator-Lincolnand with the same exultant hope in which you made General Grant your first President, with your first votes, in 1868.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS. Wishington, July 17, 1872.

